Payment of Rs. 6000/- (1994) is made in Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam which is responsible for the logistics on the Indian side. In addition to this, there is the optional expenditure for hiring ponies/porters etc.

(d) The pilgrims travel a certain distance by bus and then the major portion of the pilgrimage is on foot/pony.

(e) The Government does not provide any subsidy to the pilgrims going on Kailish Manasarovar Yatra.

PAKISTAN

(a) Indian nationals are visiting the following pilgrimage centres in Pakistan every year under the Indo-Pak Protocol on Religious Shrines, 1974.

(i) Gurdwara Shri Nankana Sahib, Rawalpindi

(ii) Gurdwara Shri Panja Saheb, Hasanabdal

(iii) Samadhi of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, Lahore

(iv) Gurdwara Shri Dehra Sahib, Lahore

(v) Gurdwara Janam Asthan, Lahore

(vi) Gurdwara Dewan Khana, Lahore

(vii) Gurdwara Shaheed Ganj, Singhanian, Lahore

(viii) Gurdwara Bhai Tara Singh, Lahore

(ix) Gurdwaha of Sixth Guru, Mozang, Lahore

(x) Birth place of Shri Guru Ram Das, Lahore

(xi) Gurdwara Chveen Badshahi Mozang, Lahore

(xii) Sadhu Bela, Khanpur and Mirpur Mathelo, Sukkur

(xiii) Shadani Darbar, Hayas Pitafi

(xiv) Shrine at Sree Katasraj

(b) Selection of pilgrims for shrines at S. No. 1 to 11 is done State-wise and coordinated by the respective State Governments. Selection for Shines at S. No. 12 and 13 is done by the nodal organisation Shadani Darbar, Raipur. Various religious organisations nominate their members to the Shrine at S. No. 14.

(c) (d) & (e) Government of India does not subsidies Sikh/Hindu Jathas to Pakistan. However, the following services/assistance to the visiting Jathas are facilitated by the Indian Government:

(i) The Reserve Bank of India releases the foreign exchange as a special case in view of the fact that permission for these jathas are given by the Pakistan at short notice.

(ii) The Railway Ministry arranges special train for pilgrime;

(iii) The High Commission of India, Islamabad deputes officials in order to render any kind of assistance to the visiting pilgrims.

Indo-Thai Agreement to curb Criminal Activities

3603. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Thailand have agreed to expand cooperation in order to deal with terrorism, traific in narcotics, arms smuggling, vitlent crimes and flight of criminals, and to draw up a framework agreement to establish order on the high seas;

(b) if so, the detalis thereof?

(c) whether India had earlier made similar types of agreements with other countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) During bilateral talks, India and Thailand have exchanged views on terrorism and have agreed to maintain and strengthen their cooperation in combating drug-trafficking and its nexus with terrorism. The two sides have discussed the possibility of concluding a bilateral Extradition Treaty and an agreement on prisoners' transfer. Till date, however, no agreement has been signed between India and Thailand on terrorism, traffic in narcotics, arms smuggling, violent crimes and flight of criminals. The two sides have also not drawn up a framework agreement to establish order of the high seas.

(c) and (d) Country-wise details in this regard are given as or statement enclosed.

Statemeat

Details regarding agreements made by India with other countries

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

An agreement on coopehation between the Ministry of Home Affairs of India and the Ministry of Security of the Russian Federation for combating terrorism, narcotics trafficking and international crime was signed in October 1993, during the visit to India by the Russian Interior Ministry, Yerin.

Another Agreement between the Government of India and the Government of the Russian Federation on Cooperation acrose State Borders was signed in April 1995 during the visit of Director of the Federal Border Guards Service of the Russian Federation Col. Gen. Nikolayev. This Agreement provides for cooperation in combating illegal migration, smuggling of weapons, ammonition explosive, poisonous austaroes and radioactive materials as well as illicit trafficking in drug and psychotropic substances. It also provides for exchange of information, experience, equipment and for training of specialists.

UNITED AREA EMIRATES

India and United Arab Emirates have singed an agreement in combating illicit traffic in narcotics and psychotropic substances on January 6. 1994 in New Delhi.

UNITED KINGDOM

India and United Kingdom hava concluded an Extradition Treaty as also an Agreement concerning the investigaiton and prosecution of crime and the tracing restraint and confiscation of the proceeds and instruments of crime (including crimes involving currency transfors) and terrorist funds.

AUSTRALIA

India have extradition arrangements with Australia, Soloman Islands and Vanuatu under the Commonwealth scheme for the Rendition of Fugitive Offenders, the London Extradition Scheme. The London Scheme is a "less than Treaty status" arrangement.

MYANMAR

India and Myanmar have signed an Agreement for Mutual Cooperation for Reducing Demand and Preventing Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Related Matters.

SAARC COUNTRIES

The Regional Convention of Suppression of Terrorism was signed during the Third SAARC Summit and has been ratified by all member countries. However, enabling legislation is to be anacted by member countries for practical implementation of the various provisions in the Convention. Excepting Pakistan and Bangladesh, all other member countries have enacted the necessary legistation.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Indian and United States of America have signed a Bilateral Agreement for Enlargement of Cooperation in the areas

of Drug Abuse Prevention. In pursuance of this Agreement, the two Governments have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 'Cooperative Measures to Increase Awareness of and Support for Efforts to Combat Production, Distribution and Use of Illegal Drugs'. In terms of the Memorandum of Understanding, the two countries will carry out joint, cooperative, long-term programmes to raise awareness of and build support for anti-narcotics activities.

CANADA

The two Governments have signed an Extradition Treaty. The Treaty is designed to enhance the cooperation between the two countries in the suppression of crime by making provisions for the reciprocal extradition of offenders in order to effectively combat terrorism.

The two Government have also signed a "Treaty on Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters" This Treaty is designed to improve the effectiveness of of both countries in the investigation, prosecution and suppression of crime, including crime related to terrorism and the tracing, restraint forfeiture or confiscation of the proceeds of crime, through cooperation and mutual assistance in criminal matters.

ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT

An agreement for mutual cooperation between Government of India and the Government of Arab Republic of Egypt on cooperation in combating illicit traffic in Narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances has been signed on 20.4.95.

UZBEKISTAN, TAJIKISTAN, KYRGHYZSTAN AND TURKMENISTAN

India have signed Declaratitn of Principles on relations with Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrghyzstan and Turkmenistan, which provide for cooperation in containing terrorism and traffic in narcotics.

Indo-China Agreement for opening of new border ptsts

3604. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any agreement has been reached in the India-China expert group meeting with regard to the opening of more border posts, reduction of troops along the India-China border and for the indentification of Line of Actual Control;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and the follow-up steps being taken thereon;

(c) whether any date has been fixed for holding meetings at Foreign Secretaries level in regard to hold more talks on the border issue; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) At the third meeting of the India-China Expert Group, held in New Delhi on March 2-4, 1995, both sides agreed that additional designated points for meetings between their border personnel would be established at Nathu La in the Sikkim Sector and a point to be agreed in the Middle Sector of the India-China Border areas. The two sides also exchange views on the reduction of military forces along their line of actual control (LAC) and continued discussions on the clarification of the LAC.

Discussion on these issues will be continued in the India-China Joint Working Group and the Expert Group.

(c) and (d) The next meeting of the ioint Working Group, which is headed at the level of Foreign Secretary, will be held in New Delhi at a mutually convenient date in 1995

Indo-US Bi-lateral relations

3605. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to establish better ties with the USA;